

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 12640 260723Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02

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R 251124Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6816

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: FALASHAS

REF: ADDIS 11816

1. AMCIT GRAENUM BERGER, WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO AMB. AND TO SOME DEPT. OFFICERS, PAID 24-HOUR VISIT TO ADDIS OCT. 22-23, TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF AUGMENTING DEVELOPMENTAL WORK (SCHOOLS, CLINICS, ETC.) AMONG 20,000 FALASHA JEWS, MOSTLY IN BEGEMDIR PROVINCE. BERGER HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN INTERESTED IN FALASHAS AND HAS VISITED THEIR VILLAGES IN ETHIOPIA ON PREVIOUS TRIPS. HE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO JDC ON RETURN TO U.S. IN A FEW WEEKS CONCERNING POSSIBLE DESPATCH FROM U.S. OF JDC TEAM OF EXPERTS AND EDUCATORS TO WORK AMONG FALASHAS. THIS EFFORT WOULD BE IN CONJUNCTION WITH BRITISH-BASED QTE FALASHA WELFARE ASSOC. END QUOTE, WHICH HAS A RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN ETHIOPIA, MR. H. G. LEVY, WHO SPEAKS AMHARIC AND HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH FALASHAS FOR YEARS. BESIDES AMBASSADOR, BERGER SAW LEVY AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF FALASHA COMMUNITY IN ADDIS.

2. BERGER ASKED AMB WHETHER DESPATCH OF SUCH A TEAM FROM U.S. WOULD CAUSE PROBLEM FOR US-EPMG BILATERAL RELATIONS. AMB SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD, PROVIDING TEAM CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT EPMG MIGHT NOT BE VERY COOPERATIVE ABOUT STAY PERMITS, WORK PERMITS, TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS, ETC. EMBASSY WOULD TRY TO BE
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 12640 260723Z

HELPFUL, BUT FRANKLY COULD NOT PUT AGGRESSIVE SUPPORT OF JDC

TEAM IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH EPMG AT TOP OF EMBASSY PRIORITY LIST. AMB URGED THAT TEAM VISIT AF/E IN DEPT. BEFORE LEAVING U.S., TO GET CLEAR PICTURE OF CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON USG ABILITY TO INDUCE EPMG TO COOPERATE.

3. BERGER IS INTERESTED IN PROSPECTS OF EPMG APPROVAL FOR DEPARTURE TO ISRAEL OF SOME FALASHAS, WHERE HE SAYS PREVIOUS FALASHA IMMIGRANTS HAVE ADJUSTED VERY WELL. RECENT ISRAELI LEGISLATION (APRIL 1975) MAKES FALASHA ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY UNDER LAW OF RETURN. AMB DESCRIBED VERY RESTRICTIVE EPMG ATTITUDES TOWARD DEPARTURES OF ANY ETHIOPIANS, AND EPMG SENSITIVITIES TO ARAB PRESSURES OR CRITICISMS. BERGER DID NOT REQUEST ANY EMBASSY ACTION TO ASSIST SUCH DEPARTURES.

HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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